[redacted]

DECLASSIFIED BY: MSICG J75J65T61
ON 08-17-2016

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Filing and Security
Primary Case: 279A-WF-222936-IT

(U) **Case Title:** ~~(S)~~ INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM MATTERS

Serial Number: 730

Serialized: 03/27/2003

Category: Full Investigation
Initiated: 10/15/2001

Details

Serial #: 730 **Type:** EC

(U) **Document Title:** ~~(S)~~ INFORMATION WAS DISSEMINATED TO SOUTH AFRICAN

Approval Date: 03/27/2003
(U) **Classification:** ~~X~~

Contents:

Precedence: PRIORITY Date: 03/27/2003

To: Counterterrorism Attn: SSA [redacted]
SSA [redacted]
WMDOU

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International Operations Attn: SC [redacted]
UC Susan M. Curtis
IOU 1

Washington Field IIC [redacted]
SSA [redacted]
SA [redacted]
SA [redacted]
IRS [redacted]
Amerithrax Task Force

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From: Pretoria
Contact: Legat [redacted]
Telephone [redacted]

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Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted] :khh

Case ID #: (U) 279A-WF-222936-IT (Pending)

Title: (U) AMERITHRAX;
MAJOR CASE 184

(U) Synopsis: ~~(S)~~ Information was disseminated to South African authorities and a request was made to identify laboratories and universities, which handle or have the capability to handle, live Bacillus anthracis. To date, no response has been forthcoming. South Africa previously had a biological weapons (BW) program, which included Anthrax.

(U) ~~(S) Derived From : Multiple Sources~~
~~Declassify On: X1~~

Reference: (U) 279A-WF-222936-IT Serials 12, 13, 69, 361

Details: (U) For information of receiving offices, referenced communications 12 and 361, requested Legat Pretoria to contact appropriate law enforcement agencies and request their assistance in identifying all laboratories and/or universities and personnel that handle Bacillus anthracis or which have the capability of handling Bacillus anthracis. Once such facilities and personnel were identified, Legat Pretoria was requested to have the law enforcement agencies utilize the list of comprehensive technical questions contained in an LHM (see Serial 13), in conducting interviews with those individuals and the representatives from the facilities.

[redacted]

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(U) In a letter dated 01/11/2002 (see Serial 69), Legat Pretoria [redacted] in this endeavor. Additionally, Legat Pretoria provided the [redacted] with a copy of the referenced LHM.

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(U) ~~(S)~~ On 01/18/2002, Legat Pretoria received a letter from [redacted] which acknowledged the receipt of Legat Pretoria's [redacted]. Additionally, this letter advised that [redacted] had been forwarded by the [redacted] to the [redacted] for their attention and action, due to the nature of this request.

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(U) ~~(S)~~ To date, no response has been received by Legat Pretoria [redacted] and none is anticipated. This is primarily due to the fact that [redacted] the Federal Bureau of Investigation on such matters.

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(U) ~~(S)~~ It is noted that South Africa previously had a BW and chemical weapons (CW) program, also known as "Project Coast", which began in the 1980's. According to [redacted] This highly compartmented program was developed in conjunction with the CW program by the SADF and was similarly protected through an elaborate system of commercial front companies, which provided cover for the programs' research and development. These BW and CW programs were shut down in the 1990s. When the CBW program was shut down, these companies were privatized.

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(U) ~~(S)~~ It is further noted that South Africa signed the Biological Weapons Convention in April 1972 and ratification occurred in November 1975.

(U) ~~(S)~~ With regard to BW agents, South Africa conducted research on a number of biological agents, but appeared to lack the ability to mass produce them. Anthrax was one of the agents produced within this BW program.

(U) In as much as no information is anticipated to be forthcoming from the South African Government, Legat Pretoria considers these leads as covered. Should additional information be received by Legat Pretoria in the future, including any information received from [redacted] with whom Legat Pretoria enjoys an outstanding liaison relationship with, that information will be forwarded to the Amerithrax Task Force, Washington Field Office and the Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations Unit, Domestic Terrorism Operations Section, Counterterrorism Division.

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LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1: (Info)

ALL RECEIVING OFFICES

(U) For information only.